

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee



Future work at a glance

Updated: May 2013

*This list is updated after each meeting of the scrutiny committee
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Items that appear regularly at committee

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| <p>The Council's Forward Plan</p> | <p>The latest version of the Council's Forward Plan is included on each scrutiny committee agenda. The Forward Plan lists all the key County Council decisions that are to be taken within the next few months together with contact information to find out more. It is updated monthly.</p> <p>The purpose of doing this is to help committee Members identify important issues for more detailed scrutiny <i>before</i> key decisions are taken. This has proved to be significantly more effective than challenging a decision once it has been taken. As a last resort, the call-in procedure is available if scrutiny Members think a Cabinet or Lead Member decision has been taken incorrectly.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items on the Forward Plan should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman, ideally before a scrutiny committee meeting.</p> |
| <p>Committee work programme</p> | <p>This provides an opportunity for the committee to review the scrutiny work programme for future meetings and to highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme.</p> |

| Future committee agenda items | | Witnesses |
|---|--|--|
| 9 September 2013 | | |
| Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) | To review and make recommendations on Children's Services policy steers and to establish a review Board to scrutinise the more detailed portfolio plan as it emerges later on in the year. | Scrutiny |
| Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report | Highlights the work of the Local Safeguarding Board during the last year and its business plan for 2013/14. This will provide an opportunity for questions about the work of the Board, how key issues have been addressed and the Board's future work programme. | Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Independent Board Chairman; Lead Member (Children & Families) |
| Safeguarding children – Member and senior management monitoring | The Lead Member (Children and Families) and senior managers in Children's Services visit social care duty teams and conduct quarterly file audits to ensure that services to safeguard children are properly co-ordinated and managed effectively. This report outlines the findings from these visits and audit checks to enable scrutiny to monitor any concerns and to ensure that necessary improvements are introduced. | Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance; Lead Member (Children & Families) |
| 11 November 2013 | | |
| Scrutiny review of school exclusions in East Sussex | The one-year monitoring report of the scrutiny review which addressed some fundamental questions about school exclusions, such as why some schools in East Sussex appear to resort to exclusions more readily than others. | Nathan Caine, Head of Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Service |
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| 10 March 2014 | | |
| Reconciling Policy, Performance and | To review and suggest improvements to RPPR in the light of the Committee's work; and, to consider the extent to which the Committee's recommendations have been | Scrutiny |

| Future committee agenda items | | Witnesses |
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| Resources | accepted. | |
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| Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway | Date available |
|---|-----------------------|
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| Potential future scrutiny work (Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here) |
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| Transition from children’s to adult social care services: ongoing work from June 2013. The scope of any review is yet to be decided. |

| Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny) | | Date available |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Performance and risk management monitoring | Performance and risk monitoring are an integral part of scrutiny. The committee is alerted to the relevant quarterly reports that Cabinet and lead Members receive. Members can then suggest matters for scrutiny to investigate in more detail. | Every quarter |

| Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny) | | Date available |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>In the performance reports, achievement against individual performance targets is assessed as either 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' ('RAG'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green' means that the performance measure is on target to be achieved • 'Amber' means that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance measure by the end of the year • 'Red' means that the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable. <p>The 'Red' and 'Amber' indicators also include further commentary and the details of any proposed corrective action.</p> <p>A similar RAG indicator system is used in the risk reports to indicate the overall score for each risk indicator that takes account of impact and likelihood.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items in the performance or risks reports should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman.</p> | |
| Skills and Employability Capital Project | This briefing describes a project that is about to invest in the 'learning and skills infrastructure of East Sussex' with the aim of supporting the development of a highly skilled workforce and provide access to more sustainable employment. | October 2012 (available) |
| Local authority powers, responsibilities and roles in relation to schools. | Report and recommendations of a joint scrutiny board (with Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee) held on 16 July 2012. The report is available on the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee agenda (6 November 2012) | Oct 2012 (available) |
| Children's Services statutory complaints report 2011-12 | This includes information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2011 – March 2012. | August 2012 (available) Next report in August 2013 |

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| <p>Enquiries: Scrutiny Team Author: Paul Dean, Scrutiny Manager Telephone: 01273 481751 Email: paul.dean@eastsussex.gov.uk Website: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/scrchildren.htm</p> <p>Download this document: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/downloadchildrens.htm</p> <p>Find scrutiny agendas and minutes on the web: http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/scrchildren.htm</p> | <p>Version: 25</p> |
| <p>Accessibility help Zoom in or out by holding down the Control key and turning the mouse wheel. CTRL and click on the table of contents to navigate / Press CTRL and Home key to return to the top of the document. Press Alt-left arrow to return to your previous location.</p> | |

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Glossary of terms and acronyms appearing in Children’s Services Committee papers

| Term | What it means |
|--------------------------|---|
| CAMHS | The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides advice, diagnosis of mental disorders and therapeutic work with young people to treat complex, severe or persistent mental health difficulties. |
| Children in care | Children being looked after by the local authority. See also LAC – Looked after children. |
| Children’s Centre | East Sussex Children’s Centres offer all families with children under five a range of services, information and support. Services vary depending on local needs but typically include: advice; home visiting; family ‘drop-in’; child health information; help finding specialist and other services they can’t provide directly. |

| Term | What it means |
|---|--|
| CYPP | The CYPP (Children and Young People's Plan) sets out the shared priorities of the Children and Young People's Trust partners to improve the lives of children, young people and their families in East Sussex. |
| CYPT | The East Sussex Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) is a group of partners that work together in different ways to improve what we provide for children, young people and families. |
| DfE | Department for Education (Government department) |
| Early years foundation stage | The EYFS is a set of welfare and learning and development requirements, which must be followed by providers of care for children below 5 years old – the age of compulsory education in the UK. |
| LAC | Looked after children: these children are either looked after or in the care of a local authority, or are provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by a local authority. We use the term 'children in care' to include all children being looked after by a local authority. |
| NEETs | People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training . |
| RPA (Raising the school participation Age) | From summer 2013, all young people will have to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From summer 2015, this will change to their 18th birthday. |
| RPPR | Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources is the County Council's budget and business planning process. |
| Schools Forum | A body which advises the local authority on how the schools budget is spent. Members include headteachers, school governors and councillors. |
| SE7 | South East 7 group of local authorities is a partnership of local authorities in the South East that are committed to working together on some key work areas for mutual benefit. |
| SEN | Special Educational Needs |
| SEND Pathfinder | Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder is a national programme trying to find better ways to help families who need it. The main thing is to put families at the centre of the process when assessing their needs and those of their child, to give them more choice and control over the help they can get. |
| THRIVE programme | A means of improving outcomes for children by investing more money in the early help services to give families the support they need <i>before</i> they get into difficulties. The thinking is that if families solve their problems before they escalate, the need for more costly social care services, such as Child Protection Plans or taking children into care, is reduced. |

| Term | What it means |
|------------------------------------|---|
| TYS Targeted Youth Service) | The Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Service offers young people advice, information and support around issues such as: sexual and mental health, drugs and alcohol, family and relationships, money and accommodation. Youth work sessions include: sports and arts based activities, getting involved in youth councils and local volunteering opportunities. |
| Youth Offending Team | The Youth Offending Team aims to cut youth crime by changing the behaviour of young people who offend. It helps them get into mainstream education and health services, so that they can be diverted from crime in the future. |

